

DANIEL GILES.

APRIL 2, 1896.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

MR. STRODE, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 3939.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3939) to pension Daniel Giles for services in Oregon Indian wars, beg leave to report:

The records of the Auditor for the War Department show that Daniel Giles served in Capt. Samuel Gordon's Company, H, and also in Capt. Edward Sheffield's Company, A, Oregon Volunteers, in the Rogue River Indian wars of 1855-56, in the then Territory of Oregon, and that his service continued from January 12, 1856, to May 10, 1856. The testimony shows that during said service he was exposed to such hardships as permanently to disable him for active duties in his later years. The colonel of his regiment, Col. William J. Martin, testifies that he required his services in a scouting party during the war, and selected him among 14 others to perform a very hazardous undertaking; that the party were caught in a heavy storm in the winter in the mountains, and as they were not permitted to have fires, so as not to disclose their camp to the enemy, that during this exposure Daniel Giles contracted a heavy cold, which settled on his lungs and in his spine, and that after nursing him for some weeks in camp, the colonel testifies he sent him to the hospital. He, however, recovered sufficiently to continue in the service until the close of the war.

The colonel says he was a brave and efficient and honorable soldier; that he has known him ever since, and that his health is broken, and he has reason to believe it is so from his hardships in the Indian wars.

Two comrades of the same companies also testify substantially to the same facts, and as to his being an invalid ever since, although a strong, robust man when he enlisted. He is now over 60 years of age, and is in dependent circumstances.

The physician, a United States pension examining surgeon, who recently examined him, testifies that he is totally disabled for manual labor, chiefly from disease of lungs and spine, the result of exposure; that his disease is chronic, progressive, and incurable, and that he requires frequent medical aid and medicines.

Representative Hermann, who has known the claimant for thirty-four years, states to the committee that he knows him to be an invalid and disabled for manual labor.

Wherefore your committee reports the bill back with a recommendation that it do pass with an amendment fixing the rate of pension at \$8 per month.